

In any case it need not be assumed that Lord Roberts has any other than worthy and patriotic motives in speaking out as he does; still less need it be assumed that the great General and oft-proved hero is inspired by love of war. We prefer to believe that he is emboldened by strong conviction of danger lurking in the present relative position of Britain, love of peace, and perhaps also by the belief that Humanity's most rapid progress towards the fuller realization of christian ideals is inseparably associated with the world-dominance of the Anglo-Saxon peoples.

Let the powers that be in Parliament—whether a Liberal or Conservative Party be in office—take care that, with some unreckoned-on situation suddenly developing, they do not allow the country to experience more “dark days” and at the same time find themselves missing the brains of a Lord Roberts while the echo of his warning comes back to them with a wail of woe!

English assurance, Scottish dourness, and Irish pluck, with a gallantry common to the three peoples make a wonderful combination, and, supported by the practical devotion of the daughter nations in these other continents beyond the seas, the Empire may, if called upon, “muddle through” even more testing times than those unexpectedly experienced in the past; but the question is apposite and peculiarly pertinent in these present months of crises—Why should not the British Empire, with its vast resources in men and means, seek to have its citizen and other forces always in such condition that its strength will be held practically unchallengeable by the rest of the world?

The Boy Scouts' motto should be taught without reserve in boyhood, and continued in practice even to grey hairs—“*Be Prepared!*”

By having her peoples ever well prepared for defence and offence the British Imperial Parliament may the sooner and the better wield a world-affecting influence towards the universal recognition of permanent Arbitration Tribunals, and also towards settlement of what may prove a prior question—proportionate limitations in the numbers of *standing* armies and of warships of all kinds, both departments of which fighting forces have an important bearing on the social welfare of the mass of the people in every civilized land.

Let the leading and dominant nations *together* agree to limit their *standing* forces, and soon the common people of every country would benefit materially and mentally; for there would at once be more men to do the world's real work, and less labour of a useless kind done.

Ideally, we believe in working towards the abolition of war and the subservience of all mankind to the “Prince of Peace”; but if history teaches us anything it is that progress towards that happy state will not be furthered by failure to face facts affecting the accumulation of implements of destruction in the possession of any nation or combination of nations whose national spirit might be less christian, or whose rulers might be less actuated by that spirit of “fair play” and freedom which, whatever her failings, usually governs Great Britain.